



NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Governor Doyle Announces Two-year \$9.7 Million Initiative Connecting Workers With Jobs
Successful Five-year-old Partnership Pools Local, State and Federal Resources to Enhance Local Transportation Options and Connect Workers With Jobs

Governor Jim Doyle today announced a two-year \$9.7 million initiative to continue a successful program that connects low-income workers with jobs through enhanced local transportation services. A total of 18 transportation-provider groups will share nearly \$6.3 million in state and federal funds awarded through the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP). Local share funds will total approximately \$3.4 million.

"My administration continues to place a major emphasis on economic growth, encouraging partnerships and finding creative, efficient ways to deliver essential services," Governor Doyle said. "By pooling available resources and targeting transportation assistance, this program successfully achieves all those goals in a way that benefits low-income workers while strengthening our overall economy." The Governor's "Grow Wisconsin" plan calls for strategic investments in the state's comprehensive transportation network to spur economic development.

WETAP integrates local, state and federal funding sources into a single, coordinated program and award process administered jointly by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). WETAP combines funds from the federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program, the state Employment Transportation Assistance (ETA) program, along with the state Transportation Employment and Mobility (TEAM) program.

"For many low-income workers, access to reliable transportation can be a major barrier when it comes to finding and maintaining a job," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman. "For five years

now, this cooperative effort has proven very successful in helping workers secure employment and support their families."

Since WETAP was implemented on July 1, 2000, more than eight million miles in enhanced transit services have been added throughout the state, benefiting over 3.4 million riders. Enhanced transit services made possible through WETAP include additional bus routes, vanpool and shuttle services, car loan and vehicle donation programs, and the hiring of local mobility managers who coordinate transportation services for area workers and employers.

"It's estimated that about 8 percent of Wisconsin households do not have access to a vehicle," said WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi. "For those who can't or who choose not to drive, the enhanced public transit services provided through WETAP are an essential link to employment."

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News editors: The attached table lists the award recipients, the planned transit-related enhancements, and the amount of the WETAP award (the amount listed does not include the local share).

**2005 – 2007 Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP)
grant recipients**

Applicant	County	Project(s)	Total award
*Milwaukee County Transit System	Milwaukee	Fixed route expansion	\$1,348,500
*Milwaukee Careers Cooperative	Milwaukee	Job access transportation services	\$154,402
*Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County, Inc.	Milwaukee	Customized and flexible shuttles	\$942,800
*VE Carter Development Group, Inc.	Milwaukee	Childcare transportation	\$914,821
*Esperanza Unida, Inc. (contract on hold)	Milwaukee	Esperanza Unida Employment Center	\$66,964
*City of Waukesha Transit Commission	Waukesha	Routes 2 and 218	\$802,369
*Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development Inc.	Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha	Keys to work/Mobility manager	\$192,980
Kenosha Achievement Center, Inc.	Kenosha	Shuttle/Mobility manager Car works	\$397,971
Dane County Department of Human Services	Dane	Stoughton shuttle Vehicle repair Deforest/Windsor shuttle	\$214,770

Central WI Community Action Council, Inc.	Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Marquette, Sauk, and Waushara	Waushara County van Mobility manager Vehicle repair/purchase	\$90,766
Fond du Lac County Dept. of Social Services (contract on hold)	Fond du Lac	Auto repair/maintenance Guaranteed ride home Vehicle loan program Vanpool program Childcare transportation	\$212,750
Women's Employment Project, Inc.	Door	Transportation Options Program Mobility manager	\$52,795
Western Dairyland EOC, Inc.	Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau	Vehicle repair/purchase	\$121,536
Southwestern WI Community Action Program	Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland	Auto loan program Mobility manager	\$308,145
Workforce Connections	Crawford, Juneau, Monroe, and Vernon	Revolving loan program Individual client services Mobility manager	\$240,045
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Ashland and Iron	Transit service	\$94,477
Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Transit Commission	Sawyer	Transit service	\$31,500
NW WI Community Services Agency Inc.	Douglas	Transportation program	\$105,812

Total WETAP awards: \$6,293,403

*Applicants via Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)

NOTE: This document can be viewed on the Internet at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm